

Library

Borough of  
otherwise



Bunhebed  
Launceston

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1960



Health Area Office,  
LAUNCESTON, Cornwall.

W. PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29172317>

BOROUGH OF DUNHEVED otherwise LAUNCESTON

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1960

Health Area Office,  
LAUNCESTON,  
Cornwall

WILLIAM PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health



BOROUGH OF DUNHEVED otherwise LAUNCESTON

Members of the Public Health Committee - 1960

The Worshipful the Mayor of Launceston -  
Councillor Mrs. J. C. HICKS  
Councillor C. H. ROBINS (Chairman)  
Alderman R. L. HICKS (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor W. F. HENDER  
Councillor Mrs. K. A. KEAST  
Councillor E. A. HORE  
Councillor W. R. BENNETT  
Councillor H. L. BARRIBALL

- - - - -

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:

Medical Officer of Health:

W. PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health: Launceston Rural District Council  
Bude/Stratton Urban District Council  
Stratton Rural District Council  
Camelford Rural District Council

Assistant County Medical Officer, Area No. 6 - Cornwall County Council  
School Medical Officer - Cornwall County Council

Public Health Inspector:

G. E. GIFFORD, M.A.P.H.I.

# SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

|                                    |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Area (in acres)                    | 2182    |
| Population                         | 4,670   |
| No. of separate dwellings occupied | 1503    |
| Rateable Value, 1960               | £68,734 |
| Product of ld. Rate                | £281    |

## LIVE BIRTHS

|                    | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Rate per 1,000 estimated population</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--|
| Legitimate         | 61           | 28          | 33            | 13.49                                      |
| Illegitimate       | 2            | 1           | 1             |  |
| <u>STILLBIRTHS</u> | 1            | -           | 1             | 15.87 per 1,000 total births               |

## DEATHS (all causes)

|                              |    |    |     |       |
|------------------------------|----|----|-----|-------|
|                              | 73 | 38 | 35  | 15.63 |
| Puerperal and post abortive- |    |    |     |       |
| sepsis                       |    |    | NIL |       |
| Other Puerperal causes       |    |    | NIL |       |

## INFANT MORTALITY

(Deaths under 1 year, per 1,000 live births)

|                       |   |             |               |              |
|-----------------------|---|-------------|---------------|--------------|
|                       | 1 | 1           | -             | 15.87        |
|                       |   | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| Deaths from Cancer    |   |             |               |              |
| (all ages)            |   | 7           | 3             | 10           |
| Deaths from Measles   |   |             |               |              |
| (all ages)            |   |             | N I L         |              |
| Deaths from Whooping  |   |             |               |              |
| Cough (all ages)      |   |             | N I L         |              |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea |   |             |               |              |
| (under 2 years)       |   |             | N I L         |              |

Health Area Office,  
Launceston

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Dunheved, otherwise Launceston.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, Ladies and Gentleman:

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1960.

The vital statistics show little change. There was a decrease of ten in the estimated mid-year population. Deaths numbered one more than in the previous year, and the number of births increased by six. In spite of this, deaths once more outnumbered births. One infant death and one stillbirth were recorded. Once again, heart disease, vascular lesions of the nervous system, and cancer, in that order, headed the list of causes of death.

The incidence of infectious disease was low, but there were 14 cases of a mild form of dysentery among adults and children. These came to light as the result of investigations into cases of sickness and diarrhoea in a school in the Borough. The infection in these instances did not appear to be food-borne.

The Council continued with its slum clearance programme during the year. In connection with housing, a backward look may be of interest. In his annual report for 1928, your Medical Officer of Health mentioned the completion of the last four houses in Dutson Terrace and went on to comment "If we could see our way to erect about 16 - 20 more workmen's dwellings, I believe the greater part of the housing problem would be solved." At the outbreak of the War, the Council owned 54 houses and flats; it now owns 287, and building continues. Demand continues also, however, over and above the needs of slum clearance, and it is not yet possible to make a confident prediction that the end of the housing problem is in sight, in spite of the Council's considerable achievement.

I must express my thanks to Mr. G.E. Gifford, the Council's Public Health Inspector, for his valuable co-operation in all aspects of our work together and in the preparation of this report. The Council's other departments have continued their willing help. I am grateful to the General Medical Practitioners for their co-operation.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge, once again, the continued interest and encouragement of the members of the Council and, in particular, of the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM PATERSON

Medical Officer of Health



AREA (in acres) 2,182. This ancient Borough is the natural centre of the agricultural community in North Cornwall and adjoining parts of Devon. It has important markets and some light industry.

POPULATION - The Registrar General has estimated the population for the mid-year 1960 to be 4,670, a decrease of ten over the previous year. The "natural" increase in the population is the excess of births over deaths. In 1960 there were 10 fewer births than deaths.

DEATHS - The total number of deaths assigned to the Borough for the year was 73 compared with 72 in 1959. The crude death rate, based on the mid-year population was 15.63 compared with 15.38 in the previous year. The following table has been compiled for comparison with previous years :

| <u>Years</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Recorded Rate</u> |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1956         | 91           | 45          | 46            | 19.53                |
| 1957         | 72           | 35          | 37            | 15.45                |
| 1958         | 68           | 28          | 40            | 14.56                |
| 1959         | 72           | 35          | 37            | 15.38                |
| 1960         | 73           | 38          | 35            | 15.63                |

In order to compare the mortality in the District with the mortality for England and Wales it is necessary to make a correction to allow for the difference in age and sex distribution of the two populations. This is done by applying to the crude death rate of the District an "Area comparability factor" which has been estimated by the Registrar General as 0.59 for this Borough.

The standardised Death Rate, therefore, is 9.22 which may be compared with that of 11.5 for England and Wales.

BIRTHS - The number of live births assigned to this Borough was 63 compared with 57 in 1959. The rate per thousand of the population was 13.49. When the Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor for births (1.06) is applied to this figure, the Standardised Birth Rate of 14.29 for this Borough compares with 17.1 for England and Wales.

STILLBIRTHS - The number of stillbirths during 1960 was one.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS - There were two illegitimate births assigned to the Borough during the year, compared with two in 1959.

MATERNAL MORTALITY - No case of death during pregnancy has been recorded.

INFANT MORTALITY - The death of one infant in the first year of life was recorded during the year. The cause of death was as follows :-

| <u>Sex</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Cause of Death</u> |
|------------|------------|-----------------------|
| M          | 1 hour     | Prematurity           |



NOTE:

Vital Statistics. It is important that too much weight should not be attached to small variations in these rates from one year to the other, particularly where relatively small populations are involved - attention should rather be paid to the trend of these rates over a period of years.

MORTALITY TABLE

Classified in accordance with 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classifications of Disease, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1955.

| <u>Cause of Death</u>                       | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|---|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Tuberculosis, respiratory                | -           | -             | -            |
| 2. Tuberculosis, other                      | -           | -             | -            |
| 3. Syphilitic disease                       | -           | -             | -            |
| 4. Diphtheria                               | -           | -             | -            |
| 5. Whooping Cough                           | -           | -             | -            |
| 6. Meningococcal Infection                  | -           | -             | -            |
| 7. Acute Poliomyelitis                      | -           | -             | -            |
| 8. Measles                                  | -           | -             | -            |
| 9. Other infective and parasitic diseases   | -           | -             | -            |
| 10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach             | 2           | -             | 2            |
| 11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus      | 1           | -             | 1            |
| 12. Malignant neoplasm, breast              | -           | -             | -            |
| 13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus              | -           | -             | -            |
| 14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 4           | 3             | 7            |
| 15. Leukaemia, aleukemia                    | 1           | -             | 1            |
| 16. Diabetes                                | -           | 2             | 2            |
| 17. Vascular lesions of nervous system      | 4           | 11            | 15           |
| 18. Coronary disease, angina                | 9           | 6             | 15           |
| 19. Hypertension with heart disease         | 1           | 3             | 4            |
| 20. Other heart disease                     | 4           | 6             | 10           |
| 21. Other circulatory disease               | 1           | 1             | 2            |
| 22. Influenza                               | -           | 1             | 1            |
| 23. Pneumonia                               | -           | -             | -            |
| 24. Bronchitis                              | 1           | -             | 1            |
| 25. Other diseases of respiratory system    | -           | -             | -            |
| 26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum           | 2           | -             | 2            |
| 27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea      | 1           | -             | 1            |
| 28. Nephritis and nephrosis                 | -           | -             | -            |
| 29. Hyperplasia of prostate                 | 1           | -             | 1            |
| 30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion         | -           | -             | -            |
| 31. Congenital malformations                | -           | -             | -            |
| 32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases  | 5           | 2             | 7            |
| 33. Motor vehicle accidents                 | -           | -             | -            |
| 34. All other accidents                     | 1           | -             | 1            |
| 35. Suicide                                 | -           | -             | -            |
| 36. Homicide and operations of war          | -           | -             | -            |
|   | 38          | 35            | 73           |

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

### General Medical Services

General medical services under Part IV of the National Health Service Act, 1946, are provided by medical practitioners resident in the district and in adjoining districts, all of whom undertake maternity medical services.

### County Council Services

I Health Department : The County Council is the local health authority for the purposes of Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946 and provides the following services in the district :-

- (a) Midwifery and Home Nursing. Nurse-midwives are provided to attend general nursing and midwifery cases in the home.
- (b) Health Visiting. The nurse midwives act also as health visitors and, with special training in the case of the mother and young child, are available to give advice on health matters in the home or at the clinic. They act also as school nurses.
- (c) Infant Welfare Centre. A fortnightly Infant Welfare Clinic is held at the Health Clinic, Launceston.
- (d) Dental Clinic. Priority dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children is available at the Dental Clinic at the Health Clinic, Launceston.
- (e) Vaccination and Immunisation. Facilities for vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough are provided at the Infant Welfare Clinic or by the supply of materials to the family doctor. Regular sessions are held for poliomyelitis vaccination.
- (f) Home Help Service. Home helps are employed to provide domestic help for households in certain circumstances, a charge being made for this service according to the means of the person concerned.
- (g) Ambulance Service. A service of ambulances for the conveyance of sick, accident and emergency cases is provided. For sitting cases utilecon sitting case vehicles are used. When appropriate, some such cases are carried by the Hospital Car Service, a voluntary organisation. Day-to-day administration of the service is carried out from Ambulance Control, Bodmin.

- (h) Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care. A full-time tuberculosis health visitor is provided for the care and after-care of tuberculous persons. District nurses are available to assist in the treatment of such persons when required by the Chest Physician or family doctor. Certain special investigations are carried out in other types of illness by district health visitors while health education is carried out by the County's medical and nursing staff.
- (j) Mental Health. The County Council has certain responsibilities in connection with the ascertainment of mental ill-health and mental deficiency, with the provision of statutory supervision, etc. for mental defectives living in the community, and with the provision of after-care following treatment for mental illness. The Mental Welfare Officer for the district works from the Health Area Office, Launceston.

II Education Department. As local education authority, the County Council is responsible for the School Health Service, which provides the following :

Periodic Medical Inspection of pupils  
 Cleanliness Surveys of pupils  
 Dental Inspection and treatment of pupils  
 Ascertainment of handicapped pupils in need of special education  
 Treatment Clinic, Health Clinic, Launceston :-  
 Dental Clinic by appointment.  
 Child Guidance, by arrangement at Plymouth Child Guidance Clinic.

III Welfare Department. This service is concerned with the welfare of the aged, and with that of various categories of handicapped persons. It is concerned also with the provision of temporary accommodation in certain circumstances for persons in urgent need thereof. The Welfare Officer for the district works from the Health Area Office, Launceston

#### Hospital Services.

The South Western Regional Hospital Board is the hospital authority for the area.

Launceston Hospital provides in-patient and out-patient facilities in the district. Patients are referred also to hospitals in Plymouth and elsewhere. Cases of infectious disease are admitted to the Scott Isolation Hospital, Plymouth, and tuberculosis patients to Didworthy and Tehidy Sanatoria. Mental hospital accommodation is provided by St. Lawrence's Hospital and Lininval House, Bodmin and Moorfields Hospital, Ivybridge, Devon.

An Orthopaedic Clinic is held weekly at the Health Clinic, Launceston, and a Physiotherapy Clinic at Tavistock Hospital. The Chest Clinic is held at Launceston Hospital.

An Ophthalmic Clinic for school and pre-school children is held periodically at the Launceston Health Clinic. A specialist Ante-natal clinic is held at the Launceston Health Clinic each week.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Plymouth, to which specimens for bacteriological examination are sent.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

### WATER SUPPLIES

On the 1st October, 1960, the East Cornwall Water Board established its headquarters at Liskeard and commenced the recruitment, equipment and general creation of the comprehensive organisation necessary. The transfer of the responsibility for the day to day running of the water organisation for the Launceston Borough to the East Cornwall Water Board was postponed until the 1st April, 1961.

Launceston derives its water supply from an upland surface source. This is an isolated and almost uninhabited area at Bray Down on Bodmin Moor. At the head works at Bray Down which were constructed in 1897, water is extracted from two separate sources. Firstly, the open moorland stream, part of which may be diverted into the head works and through the filter beds, and secondly, a series of four springs which have been piped to a common point, and enter the main at a point below the head works, consequently the water from the springs is unfiltered. There is, however, no need for filtration in the case of the spring water since samples consistently show this water to be free from organisms. The water is acid in character, having a pH varying between 5 and 5.5. This causes considerable corrosion and deposit in the trunk main and scraping by water ferret is carried out at regular intervals. The water is soft, having a total hardness equivalent to calcium carbonate of 20 p.p.m., and is therefore very suitable for washing and cooking.

There is more than sufficient water on the gathering grounds at Bray Down to serve the needs of the population of Launceston. Any temporary shortage which may occur is attributable to the trunk main failing to compensate an excessive demand. This happened on one occasion during July, but with co-operation from the public the difficulty was soon overcome. The daily water consumption varies between 190,000 and 242,000 gallons. Steps were taken during the year to increase the rather poor water pressure at one high level area of the town by the installation of a booster pump and gravity tank.

Monthly bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water received from the trunk main at Windmill Reservoir during the year. Eight of these monthly examinations showed that no coliform organisms were present, but their presence was noted in samples taken in July, August, September and October. As the water before distribution is treated with chlorine, ammonia and silicate of soda, and chlorination is calculated at a maximum constant and does not vary with flow, adequate protection is ensured. This is borne out by the fact that monthly examinations of water from the distribution system, taken on the same dates as the raw water samples, were consistently reported as being free from coliform organisms.



As the moorland water is liable to have a plumb-solvent action, the local byelaws prohibit the use of lead in service or distributing pipes. Some anxiety in this respect was felt regarding the water supply in one of the older establishments in the town where lead piping had been in use for many years. A sample was taken after water had been allowed to stand in the pipes all night, but on examination, 0.1 parts per million only of lead was found to be present, such an amount being considered as "not significant".

Out of a total of 1,525 dwellings with a population of 4,670 persons, 1,519 dwellings and 4,650 persons are supplied with water from public water mains. No standpipes are used in the Borough.

A chemical sample taken from a borehole serving a small community was reported as containing an excessively large proportion of dissolved iron, i.e., 5.5 parts per million. The iron undergoes oxidation when the water becomes exposed to the air and then becomes deposited as insoluble oxide of iron. The question of an extension of the Borough water supply to this area is being actively explored.

#### SWIMMING BATHS

The Swimming Pool at the Coronation Park is the open air type, containing approximately 100,000 gallons of water and is filled from the Borough supply in the early part of the year. The bath is equipped with an automatic chlorination dosing plant, and is further treated by a circulating filter, sulphate of alumina being added as a coagulant. Whilst, due to the poor summer, heavy bathing loads were not experienced at the swimming bath, monthly samples taken from May to August showed that no coliform organisms were present in the water.

#### SEWERAGE

Launceston is largely served by the separate or dual system of sewerage, that is to say, rain or surface water drainage is kept separate from soil and waste drainage, and the two are conveyed by separate sewers to separate outfalls, surface water to the rivers and soil water to the disposal works. At present, 160 dwellings are not connected to the main sewerage system, as the very hilly nature of the area has made sewerage a major problem, and these 160 dwellings are almost entirely served by septic tanks. Investigations are being carried out to the main foul sewerage system in an effort to eliminate the entry of surface water which is causing surcharging of these sewers.

Scarne Sewage Works, which were reconstructed during 1959, came into use early in 1960, and effluent samples taken shortly after this were well within the standards required by the Royal Commission. In October, work commenced on the second stage of the reconstruction of St. Leonards Sewage Works. Bad weather considerably hampered the work.

## DISINFECTION

Current and terminal disinfection by means of gaseous and liquid disinfectants is carried out when infectious disease is notified. Two houses were disinfected during the year.

## DISINFESTATION

Disinfestation of premises is carried out when required. As in 1959, considerable trouble was experienced from heavy infestations by the cluster fly. There are three types of this fly, the type identified in the roof spaces affected at Launceston being "*musca autumnalis*." It is known to return to the same house year after year in spite of heavy fumigation. The reason is unknown and no known fumigant or poison is considered to be effective against it for a period longer than fourteen days. The residual effect of sprays and fumigants is therefore limited. The most unpleasant effect of the infestation of a roof space by the cluster fly is the entry into the storage tank in the roof of thousands of flies, which eventually circulate through the hot water system and are extremely difficult to eliminate from it.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

Bi-weekly collections are made of household refuse and weekly collections made of refuse and salvage from trade premises. Thirty tons, fifteen hundredweights, two quarters of wastepaper were sold during the year, realising £185.10.3d.

RODENT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Type of Property

|  | Local<br>Authority | All<br>Dwellings | Business<br>Premises | Agricultural | TOTAL |
|--|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------|-------|
| Total No. of properties<br>in the Borough                  | 9                  | 1490             | 581                  | 35           | 2115  |
| Inspection on complaint                                    | 1                  | 22               | 5                    | -            | 28    |
| Survey under the Act                                       | 7                  | 75               | 94                   | 15           | 191   |
| Otherwise (e.g. when<br>visited for some<br>other purpose) | -                  | 1                | 36                   | 1            | 38    |
| Total Inspections inclu-<br>ding re-inspections            | 102                | 61               | 237                  | 1            | 401   |
| Properties infested:                                       |                    |                  |                      |              |       |
| Major Rat Infestations                                     | -                  | 1                | 1                    | -            | 2     |
| Minor Rat Infestations                                     | 3                  | 21               | 4                    | 4            | 32    |
| Major Mouse Infestations                                   | -                  | 1                | -                    | -            | 1     |
| Minor Mouse Infestations                                   | -                  | 18               | -                    | 2            | 20    |
| Total No. of Infested<br>Properties                        | 3                  | 41               | 5                    | 6            | 55    |
| No. of Block Control<br>Schemes carried out                | -                  | 1                | -                    | -            | 1     |

Under the authority of Section 4 of the Local Government Act of 1958, the Rodent Control Grants payable by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to Local Authorities under Section 11 of the Prevention of Damage to Pests Act 1949 ceased to be made after 31st March, 1959. The Divisional Pests Staff of the Ministry are still available, however, to give advice where necessary.

|               |                |               |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Poisons used: | Warfarin       | 14 lbs. 0 oz. |
|               | Arsenic        | 10 oz.        |
|               | Zinc Phosphide | 1 lb.         |

## HOUSING

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 17/55, details on Housing matters in reports of Medical Officers of Health need no longer be included, since full details are submitted quarterly to the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

Considerable progress has, however, been made with Slum Clearance. Eighteen out of a total of twenty houses represented as a Clearance Area in 1959 were acquired by negotiation, the remaining two being the subject of a Compulsory Purchase Order made on 15th August 1960 and since confirmed following a Local Public Enquiry.

On the same date, two further Compulsory Purchase Orders were made involving thirty-seven houses and six non-domestic buildings with a population of sixty-eight persons comprising thirty-one families. These orders were similarly confirmed after a Local Public Enquiry. The Redevelopment Plan for the Tower Street/Northgate Street Area is therefore well advanced and a further Official Representation in respect of nine houses will shortly be made.

A Closing Order under Section 17(1) of the Housing Act 1957 was made in respect of one house.



INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(i) Classified Number of Food Premises in the Area

| <u>Type of Premises</u> | <u>Number</u> | <u>Visits</u> | <u>Defects Found</u> | <u>Remedied</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Butchers                | 13            | 34            | 4                    | 4               |
| Small Goods Factories   | 2             | 6             | 1                    | 1               |
| Bakehouses              | 1             | 6             | 1                    | 1               |
| Bakers' Shops           | 2             | 2             | -                    | -               |
| Cafes and Hotels        | 11            | 41            | 7                    | 7               |
| Dairies                 | 5             | 40            | 2                    | 2               |
| Egg Packing Stations    | 1             | 2             | -                    | -               |
| Fish and Chip Shops     | 2             | 8             | -                    | -               |
| Greengrocers            | 7             | 21            | 3                    | 3               |
| Grocers                 | 19            | 69            | 8                    | 8               |
| Poulterers              | 3             | 14            | 5                    | 5               |
| Slaughterhouses         | 2             | 483           | 2                    | 2               |
| School Meals Kitchens   | 4             | 2             | -                    | -               |
| Hospital Kitchens       | 2             | 1             | -                    | -               |
| Fresh Fish Shops        | 2             | 10            | -                    | 2               |

(ii) Classified Number of Food Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 or under Local Acts, and the number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 to 1959.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Premises Registered for Storage and Sale of Ice Cream | 26 |
| Premises Registered for the sale of Fish and Chips    | 2  |
| Premises Registered for Sausage Manufacturing, etc.   | 7  |
| Premises Registered as Dairies                        | 5  |

(iii) Inspection of Registered Food Premises

The following inspections of registered food premises were carried out :-

| <u>Premises</u>                     | <u>Number of Inspections</u> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Fish and Chip Shops                 | 5                            |
| Sausage Making Establishments, etc. | 21                           |
| Ice Cream Premises                  | 47                           |
| Dairies                             | 36                           |

Seven informal notices were served for minor contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations

(iv) Educational Activities

Posters and Leaflets supplied by the Central Office of Information were issued to establishments from time to time and advice was given wherever possible.

(v) Condemned Food

Unsound or diseased meat is sent to a processing plant at Davidstow where it is sterilised and manufactured into fertiliser and other products. Condemned canned goods are dealt with by incineration at the Council's Refuse Tip. On the 1st November, 1960, the Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations, 1960, came into force. These Regulations require all butchers' meat and imported meat which is unfit for human consumption to be sterilised, and all knacker meat to be stained and sterilised before entering the chain of distribution.

(vi) Special Examination of Large Food Consignments

No large consignment of food has necessitated special examination or large scale condemnation.

(vii) Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947-1952

No ice cream is produced in the Borough of Launceston. Forty-one samples of ice cream, all of the hot mix type, were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. Thirty-one samples were classified as Provisional Grade One, ten in Provisional Grade Two, two in Provisional Grade Three and one in Provisional Grade Four. It is desirable that 80% of samples should be classified in Grades One and Two, not more than 20% in Grade Three and none should fall into Grade Four. These requirements were met with the exception of the one sample which fell into Grade Four and a repeated sample was perfectly satisfactory.

(viii) Food Hygiene Regulations 1955-1956

Frequent inspections of all food establishments in the Borough were carried out during the year. Seizure of a quantity of unsound bacon was necessary at one premises and this resulted in a prosecution under the Food and Drugs Act for this offence and under the Food Hygiene Regulations for certain other contraventions which existed at the premises. Convictions were obtained.

(ix) Milk and Cream

There are five registered Dairies in the Borough. Two of these retail milk and the remaining three are registered in order that they may sell loose cream.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1960

The registration of distributors of milk is now carried out by the County Council. This simplifies administrative procedure. The Borough of Launceston is now a designated area, that is to say, only tuberculin tested, pasteurised or sterilised milk may now be sold.



The following samples of milk were taken during the year :-

Tuberculin Tested

Passed Methylene  
Blue Test

10

Failed Methylene  
Blue Test

1

Passed Biological Test  
(i.e. for T.B.)

3

Failed Biological Test

-

Pasteurised

Twenty-three samples of Pasteurised Milk all passed the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests.

(x) Unsound Food

Twenty-four visits were paid in order to condemn unsound foodstuffs.

(xi) Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

There was a slight decrease of 161 in the number of animals slaughtered in 1960, indicating a fall of 0.21% over the 1959 figure and representing a total kill of 83,846 made up as follows :-

|         |       |              |                |
|---------|-------|--------------|----------------|
| Bovines | 4717  | increased by | 110 or 2.3%    |
| Calves  | 6294  | increased by | 1927 or 44.2%  |
| Sheep   | 50132 | increased by | 2036 or 4.2%   |
| Pigs    | 22703 | decreased by | 4234 or 15.72% |
| <hr/>   |       | <hr/>        |                |
|         | 83846 | decreased by | 161            |
| <hr/>   |       | <hr/>        |                |

Cysticercus Bovis

There were six cases of infestation by Cysticercus Bovis detected during 1960, as against five in 1959. This parasite, the developmental stage of the human tapeworm, was found in two steers and four heifers. This gives an incidence of 0.12%, representing an increase of 0.02% over the 1959 figure of 0.10%.

Affected carcasses are totally condemned if the condition is generalised. Otherwise they are treated by three weeks refrigeration at a temperature not exceeding 20 degrees Fahrenheit. In all cases detected during the year, the lesion was in the head or in the heart, and no cysts were found in the carcasses. The organ or part affected is always condemned.

The carcasses of five animals were sent to Launceston from other areas for refrigeration following the finding in them of localised Cysticercosis Bovis. Careful supervision was maintained to ensure that the required detention period was observed.

### Tuberculosis

The success of the Tuberculosis (Cornwall and West Devon) Eradication Area Order, 1959, in reducing bovine tuberculosis can only be appreciated when it is realised that in 1958, there were 473 cases of bovine tuberculosis detected in the Borough. In 1959, when the slaughter of reacting cattle was carried out, this figure, including the reactors slaughtered, fell to 236. In 1960, only 16 cases of bovine tuberculosis were detected, which means that the disease has been virtually eradicated from cattle. In this connection, the routine procedure now is to notify the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture of cases of bovine tuberculosis detected during meat inspection, giving particulars of their place of origin. The Ministry then carry out tuberculin testing of all animals on the affected farm and arrange for the immediate slaughter of any reactors. This course of action was followed in the 16 cases mentioned.

The eradication scheme has not yet been directed to tuberculosis in pigs and, even though the incidence was reduced from 3.08% in 1959 to 2.06% in 1960, this still means that 425 pigs were detected on slaughter as being affected with tuberculosis.

### SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958.

The comprehensive report called for by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on the existing and probable future requirements of the area with regard to slaughterhouse facilities was forwarded on the 23rd April, 1960. The report was approved without amendment, and on the 2nd November, 1960, the Minister made the Slaughterhouse, Hygiene and Prevention of Cruelty Regulations (Appointed Day No. 3) Order, 1960. Under this Order, the slaughterhouses within the Borough were required by the 1st January, 1961, to complete the works recommended in the Slaughterhouses Report. It is satisfactory to note that all these works were completed by the required date.

### Slaughtering Licences

Twenty-nine licences to slaughter animals were granted during the year.

### Diseases of Animals Acts

No diseases notifiable under the Diseases of Animals Acts occurred during the year.

For details of animals inspected and condemned see Table IV.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS 1937 to 1959

Classified List of Registered Factories at 31.12.60.

| <u>Nature of Business</u>      | <u>Power</u> | <u>Non-power</u> | <u>Building Operations</u><br><u>Electrical Stations</u><br><u>Institutions, etc.</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------|------------------|---|
| Agricultural Implement Repairs | 3            | -                |   |
| Boot Making                    | 1            | -                |   |
| Bread and Confectionary        | 1            | -                |   |
| Brush Making                   | 1            | -                |   |
| Cabinet Making                 | 1            | -                |   |
| Dresses and Millinery          | -            | 2                |   |
| Egg Grading and Packing        | 1            | -                |   |
| Electrical and Radio Repairs   | 2            | 1                |   |
| Gas Holder                     | 1            | -                |   |
| Hide Salting and Dressing      | -            | 1                |   |
| Joinery                        | 5            | 1                |   |
| Laundry                        | 2            | -                |   |
| Letter Press Printing          | 2            | -                |   |
| Monumental Masons              | 1            | -                |   |
| Motor Body Painting            | 1            | -                |   |
| Motor Body Builders            | 1            | -                |   |
| Motor Vehicle Repairs          | 11           | -                |   |
| Photographer                   | 1            | -                |   |
| Provender                      | 1            | -                |   |
| Poultry Slaughterhouses        | 3            | -                |   |
| Radio Repairs                  | 1            | -                |   |
| Rope Splicing                  | -            | 1                |   |
| Sawmills                       | 1            | -                |   |
| Seed Dressing                  | 1            | -                |   |
| Sausage Manufacture            | 3            | -                |   |
| Slaughterhouse                 | 1            | -                |   |
| Television Repairs             | -            | 1                |   |
| Upholstery                     | 1            | -                |   |
| Watch and Clock Repairs        | 2            | -                |   |
| Wool Grading                   | 1            | -                |   |
| Electrical Station             |              |                  | 1   |
| Building Operations            |              |                  | 6   |
| <hr/>                          |              |                  |   |
|                                | 50           | 7                | 7   |
| <hr/>                          |              |                  |   |

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937 are attached as an appendix to this report in accordance with circular 1/60 of the Ministry of Health.



PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASE.

The infectious diseases which are statutorily notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health are the following :- Smallpox, cholera, diphtheria, membranous croup, erysipelas, scarlet fever, typhus fever, typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, relapsing fever, plague, poliomyelitis tuberculosis, malaria, dysentery, puerperal pyrexia, ophthalmia neonatorum, acute primary pneumonia, acute influenzal pneumonia, whooping cough, measles, acute encephalitis, meningococcal infection, anthrax and food poisoning.

The monthly incidence of infectious disease is shown in Table III.

Smallpox. No case was notified during the year, in the course of which 56 primary vaccinations and 3 revaccinations were carried out.

Diphtheria. No case of diphtheria was notified during the year.

Fifty-nine children received a complete course of immunisation against diphtheria during the year, the triple antigen against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus being used in almost all cases.

Measles. One case was notified during the year.

Whooping Cough. Fourteen children were notified as suffering from this disease in November and December.

Poliomyelitis. No case of this disease was notified during the year. Vaccination against this infection continued, and, in February, the Minister of Health extended the age range of those eligible to include persons up to the age of 40 years, and introduced also some additional priority groups.

During the year, 201 persons in the Borough completed the primary course of two injections. By the end of the year, a total of 1167 persons in all the eligible age-groups and priority classes had received the primary course of vaccination since the introduction of the scheme in 1956, and 936 of these had also had their third injection.

Erysipelas. This streptococcal skin infection is now uncommon, but three cases, all in adults, were notified during the year. These were too widely separated in time of occurrence to have been connected with one another.

Dysentery. At the beginning of the year, the occurrence of a number of cases of diarrhoea and sickness in one school in the Borough was notified by the Education Authority. Bacteriological examination showed some of these to be due to the organism responsible for the mild form of dysentery known as Sonne dysentery. Subsequent investigations brought to light further cases. In all, fourteen cases were discovered, eight children and six adults.

As a routine precaution, specimens from the school meals staff were submitted to the laboratory, although the sporadic incidence of the school cases did not suggest any connection with school meals. All were negative. Some of the affected adults were employed in the handling of food and were not allowed to return to work until successive negative bacteriological reports were received. Household contacts who were food handlers were excluded from work similarly, as a precautionary measure.

Food Poisoning. No cases were notified during the year.

Tuberculosis.

|                       | <u>Males</u> |                 | <u>Females</u> |                 |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
|                       | <u>Pul.</u>  | <u>Non.Pul.</u> | <u>Pul.</u>    | <u>Non.Pul.</u> |
| Cases on Register     |              |                 |                |                 |
| 31.12.59              | 13           | 6               | 19             | 3               |
| No. of cases notified |              |                 |                |                 |
| during year           | 1            | -               | 2              | -               |
| Cases restored        | -            | -               | -              | -               |
| Inward Transfers      | -            | -               | 1              | -               |
| Cases Removed         | 1            | -               | 4              | -               |
| Total on Register     |              |                 |                |                 |
| 31.12.60              | 13           | 6               | 18             | 3               |

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

The Regional Hospital Board is responsible for treatment of Tuberculosis patients and the County Council for the prevention of spread of the disease and after-care of the patient.

Out-patients and contacts are seen by the Chest Physician (Dr. Mellor) at the Chest Clinic at Launceston Hospital. The County Council Tuberculosis Health Visitor attends the Clinic, follows up the patients in their homes, traces contacts and sources of infection and thus acting as a most valuable and essential "liason officer" between the curative and preventive services, bridges a most alarming administrative gap. All susceptible contacts of known cases in the Borough are offered B.C.G. vaccination and the majority avail themselves of this method of protection.

The County Council's scheme for B.C.G. Vaccination of susceptible school leavers was continued during the year, again with an excellent response.

OTHER DISEASES

Cancer of the Lung. During 1960, one male death from cancer of the lung was recorded out of a total of 10 cancer deaths. Since 1949, there have been 55 male and 75 female deaths from all forms of cancer. Of these, 8 male and 4 female deaths have been due to cancer of the lung.

TABLE I

TUBERCULOSIS

Age and Sex Distribution of Cases and Deaths 1960

| <u>Age Groups</u> | <u>NEW CASES</u> |          |              |          | <u>DEATHS</u> |          |              |          |
|-------------------|------------------|----------|--------------|----------|---------------|----------|--------------|----------|
|                   | <u>Pul.</u>      |          | <u>Other</u> |          | <u>Pul.</u>   |          | <u>Other</u> |          |
|                   | <u>M</u>         | <u>F</u> | <u>M</u>     | <u>F</u> | <u>M</u>      | <u>F</u> | <u>M</u>     | <u>F</u> |
| 0 -               | -                | -        | -            | -        | -             | -        | -            | -        |
| 1 -               | -                | -        | -            | -        | -             | -        | -            | -        |
| 5 -               | -                | -        | -            | -        | -             | -        | -            | -        |
| 15 -              | -                | -        | -            | -        | -             | -        | -            | -        |
| 20 -              | -                | -        | -            | -        | -             | -        | -            | -        |
| 25 -              | -                | 2        | -            | -        | -             | -        | -            | -        |
| 35 -              | 1                | -        | -            | -        | -             | -        | -            | -        |
| 45 -              | -                | -        | -            | -        | -             | -        | -            | -        |
| 55 -              | -                | -        | -            | -        | -             | -        | -            | -        |
| 65 and over       | -                | -        | -            | -        | -             | -        | -            | -        |
| Age unknown       | -                | -        | -            | -        | -             | -        | -            | -        |

TABLE II

VITAL STATISTICS

| <u>YEAR</u> | <u>POPULATION<br/>(Estimated)</u> | <u>BIRTHS</u> |                   | <u>DEATHS</u>       |             |                 |             |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
|             |                                   | <u>Number</u> | <u>Crude Rate</u> | <u>Under 1 year</u> |             | <u>All ages</u> |             |
|             |                                   |               |                   | <u>Number</u>       | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Number</u>   | <u>Rate</u> |
| 1956        | 4660                              | 55            | 11.80             | 1                   | 18.18       | 91              | 19.53       |
| 1957        | 4660                              | 52            | 11.37             | 2                   | 37.73       | 72              | 15.45       |
| 1958        | 4670                              | 55            | 11.77             | -                   | -           | 63              | 14.56       |
| 1959        | 4680                              | 57            | 12.18             | 3                   | 52.63       | 72              | 15.38       |
| 1960        | 4670                              | 63            | 13.49             | 1                   | 15.87       | 73              | 15.63       |

TABLE III

Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

|                | <u>Jan.</u> | <u>Feb.</u> | <u>Mar.</u> | <u>Apl.</u> | <u>May</u> | <u>June</u> | <u>July</u> | <u>Aug.</u> | <u>Sept.</u> | <u>Oct.</u> | <u>Nov.</u> | <u>Dec.</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Erysipelas     | -           | -           | -           | -           | -          | 1           | -           | -           | 1            | -           | -           | 1           | 3            |
| Measles        | -           | -           | -           | -           | -          | -           | -           | -           | -            | 1           | -           | -           | 1            |
| Whooping Cough | -           | -           | -           | -           | -          | -           | -           | -           | -            | -           | 6           | 8           | 14           |
|                | -           | -           | -           | -           | -          | 1           | -           | -           | 1            | 1           | 6           | 9           | 18           |



TABLE IV

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

|  | Cattle<br>excl.<br>Cows | Cows  | Calves | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs  | Horses |
|--|-------------------------|-------|--------|-----------------------|-------|--------|
| No. killed   | 1573                    | 3144  | 6294   | 50132                 | 22703 | -      |
| No. inspected  | 1418                    | 2851  | 5705   | 44419                 | 20562 | -      |
| <u>All diseases except<br/>Tuberculosis and<br/>Cysticercosis</u>                                  |                         |       |        |                       |       |        |
| Whole carcasses condemned  | 7                       | 26    | 12     | 72                    | 6     | -      |
| Carcases of which some part<br>or organ was condemned  | 106                     | 267   | 9      | 141                   | 264   | -      |
| % of the number inspected<br>affected with disease other<br>than tuberculosis and<br>cysticercosis | 7.97                    | 10.28 | 0.36   | 0.47                  | 0.13  | -      |
| <u>Tuberculosis only</u>   |                         |       |        |                       |       |        |
| Whole carcasses condemned  | -                       | 2     | -      | -                     | 6     | -      |
| Carcases of which some<br>part or organ was condemned  | 8                       | 6     | -      | -                     | 419   | -      |
| % of the no. inspected<br>affected with tuberculosis   | 0.56                    | 0.28  | -      | -                     | 2.06  | -      |
| <u>Cysticercosis</u>   |                         |       |        |                       |       |        |
| Carcases of which some part<br>or organ was condemned  | 2                       | 4     | -      | -                     | -     | -      |
| Carcases submitted to<br>treatment by refrigeration  | 2                       | 4     | -      | -                     | -     | -      |
| Generalised and totally<br>condemned   | -                       | -     | -      | -                     | -     | -      |

TABLE V

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR

STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED

|   |     | <u>Notices<br/>Complied With</u> |
|---|-----|----------------------------------|
| Housing Act 1957 Section 18 (Closing Order) House | - 1 | 1                                |

INFORMAL NOTICES SERVED

|                          |     |    |
|--------------------------|-----|----|
| Defective Drainage       | - 4 | 4  |
| Defective Roofs          | - 3 | 3  |
| General Defects          | - 7 | 7  |
| Insanitary Conditions    | - 7 | 7  |
| Obstructed Drainage      | - 2 | 2  |
| Food Hygiene Regulations | -33 | 31 |
| Shops Act                | - 1 | 1  |
| Overflowing Cesspools    | - 1 | 1  |

Total Number of Complaints Received 57

Total Number of Visits Paid 1,942

APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration  
of the Factories Act, 1937.

Part 1 of the Act

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

| Premises  | Number<br>on<br>Register | Number of   |                    |                         |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
|   |                          | Inspections | Written<br>Notices | Occupiers<br>Prosecuted |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (i.e. Factories without power)  | 7                        | 6           | -                  | -                       |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (i.e. Factories with power)  | 50                       | 74          | 11                 | -                       |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' Premises) (i.e. Electrical Stations, Institutions and Sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction) | 7                        | 10          | -                  | -                       |
| Total   | 64                       | 90          | 11                 | -                       |

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

| Particulars  | Number of cases in which defects were found |          |                                  |                      | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|--|---|----------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|
|  | Found                                       | Remedied | Referred<br>To H.M.<br>Inspector | By H.M.<br>Inspector |   |
| Want of cleanliness<br>(Section 1)   | 6   | 6        | -                                | 1                    | -   |
| Overcrowding<br>(Section 2)  | -   | -        | -                                | -                    | -   |
| Unreasonable temper-<br>ature (Section 3)  | -   | -        | -                                | -                    | -   |
| Inadequate ventilation<br>(Section 4)  | 1   | 1        | -                                | -                    | -   |
| Ineffective drainage<br>of floors (Section 6)  | -   | -        | -                                | -                    | -   |
| Sanitary Conveniences<br>(Section 7)   |   |          |                                  |                      |   |
| (a) Insufficient   | 1   | -        | -                                | -                    | -   |
| (b) Unsuitable or<br>defective   | 3   | 3        | -                                | 1                    | -   |
| (c) Not separate for<br>sexes  | -   | -        | -                                | -                    | -   |
| Other offences against<br>the Act (not including<br>offences relating to<br>Outwork) | -   | -        | -                                | -                    | -   |
| Total  | 11  | 10       | -                                | 2                    | -   |

PART VIII of the Act

Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

No outworkers notified under Section 110(1)(c)



